

His MAJESTIES
LETTER
OF INSTRUCTION
DIRECTED AND SENT
to the JUDGES of
ASSIZE of the severall
Circuits,
AT
THE LAST SUMMER
ASSIZE.

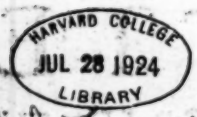
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THE MAJESTY

LETTER



W. J. Lowell fund

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TO THE MAJESTY

OF THE MAJESTY

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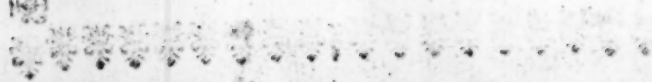
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HIS MAJESTIES
LETTER OF INSTRUCTION

directed and sent to the JUDGES

of Assize of the severall Circuits.



Rusty and well-beloved, Wee greet you well. We call to mind, that in former times the constant Custome was, by the Mouth of the Lord Keeper for the time being, at the Court of Star-chamber, in the end of Trinity Terme, to put the Judges of Assize (shortly after to undertake their severall Circuits,) in mind of such things as were then thought necessary for the present, for the good government of the Kingdome. This course in Our Judgement We doe so well approve of, that although We want that opportunity

which We and Our Predecessors then had, of Communicating Our thoughts to Our Iudges, for the good of Our People: yet We doe still retainethe same care for the safety and prosperity of Our good Subjects; And much more by how much the distempers and distractions of the present times, unhappily fallen, have given Us more occasion. We have therefore thought it fit to supply this defect by these Our Letters; wherein beside the generall care of Our Iustice committed to Us by God, and by Us delegated to Our Iudges by Our severall Commissions, We recommend unto you in your Circuit, as We shall doe to the rest of your Brethren in their severall Circuits, more especially these particulars following.

First, That ye take care by all the best meanes you can, to suppress Popery in all those Counties whither you are to goe, by putting the Lawes made against them in due execution: And that you take the like care to give a stoppe to the overhasty growth of Anabaptisme, and other Schismes; as farre as by the good Lawes of this Land you may, and to punish the delinquents with an equall hand; and those especially of either sort, whom you shall discover to be
 3 A
 seditiously

seditionously stirrers and moters of others, to any Act of disobedience to Us, and to Our Government; And that in your Charges and otherwise, as you shall have fit opportunity, you assure Our good Subjects in Our name, and in the word of a King (who calls God to witnesse of His integrity and sincerity therein) That by His gracious assistance, We are constantly resolved to maintain the true Protestant Religion established by Law in this Church of England, in the purity thereof, without declining either to the right hand or to the left, as We found it at Our Accessse to the Crowne, and as it was maintained in the happy times of *Queen Elizabeth*, and King *James* (Our deer Father) both of happy memory; and therein both to live and dye.

Secondly, you shall let Our people of those Counties know, That according to Our Kingly duty and Oath, We are also constantly resolved to maintain the Lawes of this Our Kingdom, and by, and according to them, to governe Our Subjects, and not by any Arbitrary power, whatsoever the malevolent Spirits of any ill-affected to Our Person, or Government have suggested, or shall suggest to the contrary; and that we shall also maintain the Just Priviledges of Parli-
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ment, as farre as any of Our Predecessors have done, and as farre as may stand with that Iustice which We owe to Our Crowne, and to the honour thereof. But that We may not, nor will admit of any such unwarranted power in either or both houses of Parliament, which in some things hath been lately usurped, not only without, but against Our Royall Consent and Command; And We require and Command you, as there shall be just occasion offered, in a legall way, that you take care to preserve Our just Right in those Cases.

Thirdly, We charge you, as you tender the Peace of the Kingdom, (in the government whereof, according to Our Lawes, you Our Judges of the Law have a principall part under Us) that you take care for the suppressing of all Insurrections (if any such should happen) and of all Riots, and unlawfull Assemblies, under any pretence whatsoever, not warranted by the Lawes of the Land, and whosoever shall transgresse therein, that you let them know, that they must expect that punishment which by the Law may be inflicted upon them, and at your hands We shall look for such an accompt herein, within your Circuit, as becometh the quality of the place wherein you serve Us.

Fourthly, Because these distempers of the present times, unhappily stirred up, and fomented by some, under specious, but unjust pretences, are probable to stirre up loose and ungoverned persons, under hope of impunity, as farre as they dare, to make a prey of Our good Subjects, We strictly charge and command you to take the best order you can in those Counties, that Rogues and Vagabonds, and other disorderly people may be apprehended, dealt with, & punished according to the Lawes, whereby the good and quiet People of Our Kingdom may be secured, and the wicked and licentious may be suppressed. And We Charge and Command you to give it in Charge in all the Counties whither you are sent by Our Commissions, that Watches and Wards, be strictly kept in all Parishes & Places convenient, whereby the Lawes made against such disorders may be put in due execution.

Fifthly and lastly, you shall let Our People of those Counties know from Us, and by Our Command, That if they shall preferre unto Us, or unto you in Our stead, any thing wherein they hold themselves grieved, in an humble and fitting way, and shall desire a just reformation or reliefe, We shall give a gracious Eare unto them, and with all conveniency return them such an

Answer, as shall give them cause to thank Us for Our Justice and Favour.

And when ye shall have published Our cleer intentions to Our People in these things, least, at the first hearing, they should not so fully apprehend Our sence therein, you shall deliver a Copy of these Our Letters to the Foreman of the Grand-jury, and to any other, if any shall desire Copies of these Our Letters for their better information, you may deliver the same.

And to the end that Our Service in your Circuit may not suffer through the absence of Our Learned Councell; Our will and Command is, That you assigne in every place of your Sessions some of the ablest Lawyers who ride that Circuit, to be of Councell for Us, to assise in such pleas of the Crowne, as may be most necessary for Our service, in the examination and punishment of notorious delinquents.

Of all these things We shall expect that good Accompt from you, as We shall from the rest of your Brethren Our Iudges, to whom We have also written to the like purpose, (of whose fidelity and good affections We are confident,) as becometh Us to look for from you, and for you to render to Us, from whom you have so great a trust committed.

Given at Our Court at YORKE the 5 of July 1541.

